

December 2, 2016

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
ATTN: Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
1849 C Street, NW
MS 3071
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Federal Decision Making Regarding Infrastructure Projects

First, I would like to thank you for being open to holding tribal consultation meetings throughout the country and for also being open to comments regarding the Tribal Consultation Process and how to better integrate tribal views on future infrastructure projects.

I have a unique perspective and experience regarding this particular subject because of my formal and traditional education and experience. As a Native American, entrepreneur, business owner, environmental engineer with a Master Degree in Engineering Management from Dartmouth College I have credibility in the mainstream world because of my formal education and accomplishments. I have had the experience of managing federal projects as a project manager and technical staff member for Los Alamos National Laboratory and multi-million projects for communities and tribes as the owner of High Water Mark, LLC.

But, what I am have also been blessed with is a traditional education in our Pueblo perspective, core principles, core values, and way of life. Some of those core values and principles are the same across various religions, societies, and cultures. Those are 1) to be respectful (i.e. "do onto others as you would have done onto you"); 2) take care of your children and family; 3) take care of the things that allow us to live (i.e. water, air, soil). I am certain that those are some of the same core principles of the person reading this letter.

I refer to these basic or core values because there are so many instances and examples of how these basic values have been violated by the federal government, state governments, local governments and individuals when it comes to Native American tribes, Pueblos, communities, and peoples for centuries. The current federal process continues to violate those three basic core values or ideas with the ongoing example of the Dakota Access Pipe Line in North Dakota. For a majority of tribes and Pueblos in the United States, all their leadership and people want is to have these three things.

And what does that mean?

A respectful relationship and interaction is to genuinely sit down and discussion the concerns, priorities, and issues on a project or initiative. Then to come to a consensus on what is the appropriate or "right" strategy or action to move forward. One may think that it is not possible to come to a consensus. But, I know from experience and examples of conflicted situations that a consensus process based upon a respectful interaction and relationship can work. Our Pueblo communities have used this type of decision making process since time immemorial. Those numerous data points should demonstrate that this type of process can work.

Because as a Pueblo woman, mother, daughter, sister and tribal member, the last two basic values and principles is what drives my priorities and final decisions. If my daughter at the age of 5 years old can

understand the basic and core values of what we ALL need to live (as she writes in the attached letter), I think we can all understand and work toward what is the “right” thing to do.

With all my best,

Phoebe K Suina

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Stop the PIPE LINE
HELP the WATER PROTECT
ourselves, our Brothers and Sisters,
and our Animals and our
WATER! LIFE is not CLEAN
WATER!
Our FAMILY, our friends,
and our friendships. We need
help for our children, STOP
MEXICO 6 years old MEXICAN MILITARY
I am from San Juan and Santo Domingo
San Felipe Pueblo. Live in
San Juan.